VIETNAM COURIER

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THIS is our 100th issue. Many thanks to you all who have accorded us your support and help. We pledge ourselves to do our utmost under all circumstances to be worthy of our friends' confidence and sympathy.

VIETNAM COURIER

AS WASHINGTON PERSISTS IN INTENSIFYING ITS CRIMINAL WAR, SOUTH VIETNAM WILL NEVER GIVE UP FIGHTING

Statement of February 28, 1967 by the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation on the U.S. imperialists' step-up of aggressive war in South Vietnam. (*)

FIERCEST IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION AGAINST A NATION STRUGGLING FOR INDEPENDENCE

AFTER the failure for their schemes to dominate South Vietnam by means of the puppet administration and army and through the "special war", the U.S. imperialists have been for over two years now, cynically building up their expeditionary troops in South Vietnam to wage one of the fiercest aggressive wars ever known in history.

Being condemned by the whole progressive mankind, Johnson and his like while unceasingly clamouring about their "desire for peace", have been in fact obstinately intensifying and extending the war of aggression in South Vietnam, creating a particularly serious situation in Vietnam, Indo-China and Asia.

AGAINST the 14 million South Vietnamese, the Johnson administration has mobilized **an aggressive army of over one million** men. Out of this total, the U.S. expeditionary corps, from 23,000 men by the end of 1964 had increased to 180,000 by the end of 1965, and exceeds 410,000 now. If the U.S. troops on duty on the ships of the 7th Fleet or stationed at U.S. bases in Thailand, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam, etc... are included, the total number of U.S. troops committed to the war of aggression in South Vietnam now exceeds half a million, by far surpassing U.S. strength in the war of aggression in Korea. Troops from various U.S. satellites, less than 20,000 by the end of 1965, have now increased to over 55,000. The U.S. government is still preparing to bring hundreds of thousands of U.S. additional troops into South Vietnam. At the same time it is pushing up its use of the manpower, natural resources, and territory of its vassal countries in Asia and the Pacific area for its aggressive purpose in South Vietnam.

Equipped with **modern war means** and using on a large scale **the most barbarous kinds** of **lethal weapons** forbidden by international law, such as napalm, phosphorus and magnesium bombs of all kinds, and various types of toxic chemicals and poison gas, etc., the U.S. aggressors and their agents have launched tens of thousands of "sweeps", carried out B-52 bombings in numerous areas, from the coasts of the South China Sea to the frontiers of Laos and Cambodia, from the Mekong delta to Quang Tri—Thua Thien provinces, the demilitarized zone included.

Combining the methods of modern warfare with the most inhuman means of massacre used by Hitler and mediæval despots, the U.S. imperialists have been promoting their "kill all, destroy all, burn all" policy, committing the most barbarous crimes. In 1966 alone, 637,000 tons of bombs and bullets were used against South Vietnamese villages, three times as many as in 1965 and by far exceeding the quantity of bombs and bullets used in World War Two in the Pacific area. In 1965-1966, they killed or wounded hundreds of thousands of civilians among whom thousands were killed by toxic gas, hundreds of others had their bellies ripped up and their livers plucked out. Many towns and villages with thousands of inhabitants were razed out.

Also for more than two years, in an attempt to ward off the danger of defeat in South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists, have been brazenly carrying out **a war of destruction against North Vietnam with their air force and navy**, grossly encroaching on the sovereignty and independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, piling up new crimes against the entire people of Vietnam. What is more serious, in recent days, they have taken a new step of escalation, using artillery guns based south of the demilitarized zone and on the 7th Fleet warships to shell many populated areas of North Vietnam. They insolently demand that the 17 million North Vietnamese renounce their sacred right and obligation to assist the liberation struggle of their kith and kin in South Vietnam. At the same time, they

(*) *Translation, subheads and bold-face emphases are of* Vietnam Courier.

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LATEST NEWS

NORTH VIETNAM SHOT DOWN THE 1,700th U.S. AIRCRAFT

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AS WASHINGTON PERSISTS...

(Continued from page 1)

continue distorting and negating the resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation waged by all strata of the people in South Vietnam, under the leadership of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, and brazenly urging that the people in South Vietnam stop their fighting.

Furthermore, the U.S. imperialists have been ceaselessly expanding "the special war" in **Laos**, seriously sabotaging the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, launching continuous attacks and provocations against the **Kingdom of Cambodia**, in an attempt to turn the whole Indo-China into a war theatre.

WASHINGTON'S POLICY — THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN VIETNAM

THE Johnson clique's talks about peace are obviously a mere hoax, their actual deeds are intensification and expansion of war, their plot is **to cling to South Vietnam at any cost, and to permanently partition Vietnam.** In his new year's message Johnson affirmed that he would "stand firm in South Vietnam" and asked the American people to supply more blood and money. In response to the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation humane order to suspend military actions during various holidays and the "Tết" Festival and the good-will of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Government as expressed in the recent interview of Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh, and to the legitimate aspirations for peace of the world peoples who are demanding the U.S. imperialists to stop the bombing of North Vietnam, to put an end to the aggression in South Vietnam and to recognize the South Vietnam N.F.L. But the Johnson clique's attitude is always to continue the fierce bombing of North Vietnam and the intensification of the aggressive war in South Vietnam, to negate the sacred resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation of all strata of the people in South Vietnam and the role of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation.

It is clear that ***the U.S. obdurate policy of aggression in South Vietnam is the cause of the present especially serious situation*** in Indo-China and Asia. It is ***the only obstacle to the restoration of peace in Vietnam,*** and constitutes an insolent challenge to all peace-, freedom- and justice-loving people of the world.

OUR LEGITIMATE RIGHT, OUR TASK TOWARDS THE VIETNAMESE NATION AND WORLD PEOPLES

AT this juncture, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation deems it necessary to affirm solemnly once again the stand of resolute struggle of the 14 million South Vietnamese as pointed out in its historic March 22, 1965 statement.

To fight against U.S. aggression, for independence, democracy, neutrality, and ultimate national reunification is the South Vietnamese people's **legitimate right and most glorious task towards their Fatherland.** It is also **their lofty obligation to other peoples in the world** who are struggling for independence, freedom, peace, democracy and social progress.

Drawing strength from their traditional deep patriotism and their monolithic unity, the people of South Vietnam, under the leadership of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation have inflicted well-deserved blows on the enemy and won repeated great victories!

Over more than two years during which U.S. troops have been massively introduced into South Vietnam, the fight of the South Vietnam people against U.S. aggression has grown unusually fierce; at the same time, the People's Front against the U.S. aggressors and their agents has been unprecedentedly consolidated and broadened, and has launched attack after attack against the enemy. The people's war has vigorously been developing on all battlefields, resulting in more than 120,000 GIs, 270,000 puppets and 10,000 satellite troops put out of action. The number of GIs wiped out in 1966 increased more than five times compared to 1965. In the North, our kith and kin, animated by a deep hatred for the U.S. bandits, have shot down nearly 1,700 U.S. planes and captured numerous U.S. pilots, while stiffening their unshakable determination to defend the North and assist the liberation struggle of the South.

The entire world indignantly condemns the U.S. war of aggression. Broad sections of the American people are more and more resolutely opposing the Johnson clique's obdurate policy of aggression. The flames of wrath stirred up by the U.S. imperialists themselves will certainly burn to ashes the U.S. aggressors.

The South Vietnam National Front for Liberation calls on all fellow countrymen and members of the Liberation Armed Forces to close their ranks and march forward to defeat the second dry-season strategic offensive by the U.S. expeditionary troops and the puppets as well as any scheme which they may devise, and to win still greater and more glorious victories.

Johnson and his like should know that any act of aggression of theirs will meet with due punishment!

The people of South Vietnam are deeply attached to peace, but are resolved never to loosen their grip on their weapons till not a single U.S. aggressor is seen on the territory of their beloved Fatherland!

The South Vietnam National Front for Liberation extends all-out support to the just stand and attitude full of good will of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Along with our kindred North, we are determined to struggle to fully discharge our sacred duty, namely, to liberate the South, to defend the North, and to

"The [American] war in Vietnam is, I believe, a war for the defense of civilization": Cardinal SPELLMAN, *at a Christmas mass for G.I.s in Saigon, 1966.*

ultimately achieve the reunification of the country.

STRONGER SOLIDARITY WITH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM'S ANTI-U.S. STRUGGLE

THE South Vietnam National Front for Liberation energetically denounces to world opinion **the stubborn policy of aggression and the most barbarous crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists** against the people in South Vietnam.

It earnestly calls on **the governments and peoples of freedom-, peace- and justice-loving states,** and on **all progressive organizations and personalities** of the world, to use all their influence and capacities to actively stay the bloody hands of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, to demand that the United States immediately stop its aggression in Vietnam, end permanently and unconditionally its bombings and all other war activities against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam, and leave the South Vietnamese to settle themselves their internal affairs in accordance with the platform of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, to give still **more vigorous support,** — moral, political and material, — to the resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation of the South Vietnamese people in order to inflict total defeat on the U.S. aggressors.

The South Vietnam National Front for Liberation emphatically appeals to **the progressive people of the United States,** to act still more energetically against the U.S. government's unjust and inhuman war, and to check all its schemes to step up and expand the war of aggression in Vietnam, for the sake of peace and justice, and the honour of the American people.

WITH rock-like confidence in the victory of their just cause and with the strong support of the people throughout the world, the National Front for Liberation and the South Vietnamese people are determined to carry on untiringly their fight in order to achieve at any cost their sacred national rights, and contribute a worthy part to the common struggle of the world's peoples for peace and freedom.

NEW, EXTREMELY SERIOUS U.S. ESCALATION

The DRV Foreign Ministry has issued a declaration condemning the new, extremely serious U.S. escalation in Vietnam.

After denouncing measures aimed at intensifying the war in South Vietnam: systematic destruction of large rural areas, forcible concentration of the people, massive use of outlawed weapons (poison gas, toxic chemicals, napalm, etc.), the declaration continues:

IN North Vietnam, the U.S. continues to intensify its air attacks, and within the past four days, they have taken three new escalation steps: using artillery to shell the D.R.V. territory from the southern part of the demilitarized zone, using warships to bombard systematically the coastal areas and dropping mines into many rivers and canals. American military commanders are raving for bombing of many more targets including Hanoi, the D.R.V.'s capital city, and Haiphong ports.

Moreover, the U.S. ruling circles are also feverishly preparing to further intensify and expand their aggressive war in Vietnam. They have called up part of their reserves and increased their military budget. They have ordered the S.E.A.T.O. and A.N.Z.U.S. member countries and the satellites having their mercenaries in South Vietnam to contribute more men and money to their savage aggressive war. They have introduced B-52 aircraft into Thailand, scheme to interfere ever more deeply in the Kingdom of Laos, and at the same time are increasing provocations and encroachments on the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

It is obvious that the U.S. imperialists have not given up their vicious piratical design. U.S. President Johnson himself on February 2, 1967 bluntly declared that the U.S. would carry on the war with all its intensity. On February 27, Johnson declared that the new military measures against the D.R.V. were aimed at "stronger effects than the previous ones".

Facts have laid bare the premeditated escalation plan of the U.S. ruling circles to step up their aggressive war in South Vietnam and expand their air war of destruction in the North to a higher and ever more dangerous degree.

This constitutes a gross encroachment on the sovereignty and independence of the Vietnamese people, [illegible] principles on the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam and seriously threatens the peace and security of the peoples in South-East Asia and the world.

With his usual trick of "thief crying stop thief" Johnson this time pleaded that the new military measures of the U.S. "were not escalation" and were but the "best way to bring peace".

Obviously the U.S. aggressors have slighted public opinion to an intolerable degree!

They have openly challenged broad sections of public opinion in many countries, including the United States, which are sternly condemning them and demanding that they permanently and unconditionally stop the bombing of the D.R.V., withdraw U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam and recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation.

The U.S. aggressors think that by widening their air war of destruction in the D.R.V. they can prevent North Vietnam from supporting the South, and can force the Vietnamese people to hold negotiations under their condition.

But they are mistaken. The Vietnamese people never submit to violence. Never shall they negotiate under the threats of U.S. bombs and bullets! The Vietnamese people will unite still more closely, and are resolved to fight to defend the North and liberate the South with a view to reunifying the Fatherland, thus contributing to the defence of peace in Asia and the world.

The people in the fraternal socialist countries, the freedom- and justice-loving people the world over, including the people of the U.S.A. will further increase their support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

The best alternative for the U.S. is to recognize the 4-point stand of the D.R.V. Government, permanently and unconditionally stop its bombing and other war acts against the D.R.V., withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, and leave the Vietnamese people to settle themselves their internal affairs.

The higher the U.S. imperialists escalate, the more ignominious their failure. The Vietnamese people will surely win glorious victory.

The Americans deliberately bomb the civilian population (See *Vietnam Courier* No 99: Declaration of a senior officer of the U.S. Navy).

Photos: Young victims of U.S. raids on Ninh Binh. (*Right*: Doctor Behart, head of the 2nd Investigation Team of the B. Russell International Tribunal).

HANOI TRIBUNE

We Strongly Condemn the U.S. Imperialists and Saigon and Thailand Henchmen's Repeated Violations of Cambodian Territory

FOR over one year, the American imperialists have continually indulged in provocations and encroachments against Cambodia. Late in December 1966, planes and troops of the U.S. and Saigon puppets repeatedly violated her territory, killing many people in Prey Veng, Kandal, Svay Rieng and looting their property. Meanwhile, Thai troops time and again intruded into her territorial waters and land in Battambang, Oddor Meanchey, Kohkong.., attacked her border units, destroyed her villages and planted mines killing many people.

Recently, on February 20 and 21, 1967 troops of the Yankee imperialists and the Saigon quislings attacked Trapeng Thla and Daung, Romeas Hek district, Svay Rieng province, after submitting them to an intense raid by aircraft including B.52s, killing and wounding many people and destroying many properties.

The D.R.V. government and Vietnamese people strongly condemn these acts of war by the American imperialists and their stooges against the Kingdom of Cambodia and demand that they stop their criminal acts against the Khmer people.

The D.R.V. Government fully supports the just stand of the Kingdom of Cambodia expressed in the February 4 and 25, 1967 communiques in condemnation of U.S. and Thai governments' violations of her territory.

The Vietnamese people warmly hail the valiant spirit of the Khmer army and people and are firmly confident that the Khmer people's just struggle will triumph in the end.

Massive Disintegration of Saigon Troops

ON January 1, 1966, the battalion of puppet rangers stationed at Hieu Liem, Tan Uyen district (Bien Hoa) crossed over to the N.F.L. side. Thanks to the help of the people and the local L.A.F., a great number of men from this unit — particularly a whole company — reached safely the liberated areas.

Such a revolt marked a new development in the movement of munity and insurrection which has kept increasing and spreading among the puppet troops, especially since the massive dispatch of American and satellite troops to South Vietnam.

This movement has thrown light on American military failures. The resounding rebellion of members from the 1st Armoured Regiment at Thu DauMot (March 21, 1966) broke out after the fiasco of the first U.S. strategic dry-season counter-offensive (1965-1966). That of 2,000 men (33rd Regiment, 21st Division), at Soc Trang on October 17, 1966 happened after the bankruptcy of the rainy season "strategic defensive" (1966). The recent revolt in Bien Hoa was linked with the defeat of the first round of the second U.S. strategic dry season counter-offensive.

It appears from such a situation that one of the main causes of the rapid and visibly more and more massive disintegration of the puppet troops lies in the very presence and the ever heavier defeats of the U.S. expeditionary forces and in the ever bigger victories of the L.A.F. and the people in South Vietnam. The Americans have been ill-treating and openly despising the puppet military men, senior officers included. Entrusting the puppet troops with the "pacification" task, they have turned them into "house mothers". They have insulted, bullied and even shot at puppet soldiers at drill or in action. They have thrown dead or seriously wounded puppet soldiers into the rivers and the sea. They have outraged puppet soldiers' wives and killed their men. They have dropped bombs and spread toxic chemicals on the countryside, massacred the people in the villages and towns, thus causing great losses to many puppet soldiers' relatives. They have evicted people from their homes, grab their land, set off inflation, which has resulted in an economic crisis affecting the standard of living of the puppet soldiers' families.

Along with U.S. failures, such a development has rapidly turned the hostile feelings and the lack of confidence of the majority of the puppet troops into hatred for the Americans. There has been increasing realization by puppet mercenaries that a shameful death is in store for them and that they have committed crimes against their countrymen.

The stirring call of their people who include their own relatives, the just cause, the resounding victories of the resistance and the lenient and humane policy of the N.F.L. towards the puppet troops have opened the eyes to an increasing number of them sicker and sicker of their position as mercenaries, and incited them to cross over to the people's side. This state of things is backed up by facts and figures. In 1966, the number of deserters from regular units increased three and a half times, that of deserting officers two times as compared with 1965, massive desertion depleted 6 battalions and 45 companies, as against 2 battalions and 41

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Latest News

NEW U.S. ESCALATION SEVERELY PUNISHED

NORTH VIETNAM

— **The 1700th U.S. aircraft was shot down on March 1. Total U.S. losses to date: 1702 planes.**

— **4 ships of the 7th Fleet, among them a cruiser, set afire by our shore batteries (Feb. 27 to March 1).**

SOUTH VIETNAM (according to Western agencies)

In the night of Feb. 28 to March 1:

— **475 shells were lobbed by N.F.L. forces on U.S. 175mm. guns which had fired on North Vietnam across the 17th parallel.**

— **A unit of the 25th American Infantry Division, protecting the field H.Q. of Operation *Junction City*, was badly mauled at Dau Tieng.**

— **Heavy losses sustained by the H.Q. of a military sector; one battalion of rangers attacked in two different places in Ben Tre province (mouths of the river Mekong).**

— **30 recoilless rifle shells fired on the H.Q. of the 21st puppet Infantry Division in Bac Lieu, near the southern tip of South Vietnam.**

Deserved Punishment

THE Americans have just lost their **1700th** aircraft over North Vietnam. The 1702 enemy aircraft destroyed up to March 1 were shot down by our vigilant and efficient air defense: Anti-aircraft batteries, missiles, infantry, air force, peasant and worker militia, armed police...

Worthy of note are the achievements recorded the last two months by the people's militia and regional troops. Thus, in Son La province, four militiamen brought down a F.4C Phantom with eight rifle shots. In Quang Binh, popular militiamen have, in coordination with regional troops, shot down a large number of enemy aircraft, in night and day combat. The first robot plane shot down by infantry weapons fell in Thai Binh province. New types of ultramodern planes have been downed: electronic reconnaissance planes, latest-type pilotless planes. In many localities, not only fighter planes have been shot down and their pilots captured, but rescue helicopters have met with the same fate.

These last few days, the American aggressors have made three further steps in their escalation. Their warships and heavy guns have pounded our territory. Their aircraft have laid mines in our rivers. But they have received deserved punishment.

No sooner had their warships pounded our coast than N.F.L. forces hit hard at their Da Nang air base (February 27); within three days (Feb. 27 to March 1) four of their naval units, among them a cruiser, were set afire by our shore batteries.

They shelled villages located north of the 17th parallel with 175-mm. guns positioned south of the demilitarized zone: barely a few days later, their guns were silenced by a rain of heavy mortar shells from N.F.L. forces.

They have given a great impulse to their air war of destruction: they have paid for this with the loss of over 1700 ultramodern aircraft!

They want to try our will with bombs and shells. All right, we shall reply to them in the same language. It's good logic. Total defeat is in store for them.

The recent setbacks inflicted on them by the armed forces and people of the North and the pitiful failure of the "biggest operation of the war" in the South (Operation *Junction City*) are one more proof of the inevitable defeat of the U.S. aggression.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

OF the 30 administrative units (provinces and cities) of the D.R.V., 27 have so far shot down American aircraft. Five have downed over 100. The record belongs to Quang Binh (261); the runner-up is Nghe An (238); 806 U.S. aircraft have been downed over provinces located between the 17th and 20th parallel; 57 have been shot down over Hanoi, and 65 over Haiphong.

U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force planes shot down over North Vietnam belong to 41 different models and 14 different categories, among them jets of the latest types: F-105 *Thunderchief*, F-4 *Phantom*, A-4 *Skyraider*, F-8 *Crusader*, A-6 *Intruder*, F-5 *Freedom Fighter*, RB-66 *Destroyer* (electronic reconnaissance), etc.

IN five years, in South Vietnam, the N.F.L. forces have shot down, destroyed on the ground or seriously damaged 5,300 U.S. planes and helicopters: 1962: **200** — 1963: **696** — 1964: **1027** — 1965: **1337** — 1966: **2130**.

THE IRON FERRY

FERRY "April 3" lies on National Highway No 1, not far from the sea. There the 200-meter wide Ben Hai River is particularly dangerous because of its violent eddies.

In vain has the U.S. Air Force been trying for over eighteen months to wipe out this ferry by dropping thousands of bombs and launching tens of thousands of rockets and tens of missiles.

One morning in early April 1965, the place was swarming with people. Farmers were busy carrying cars and lorries across the stream. All of a sudden, U.S. planes appeared, raining bombs and bullets. The whole staff of the ferry service — managers, workers, office employees, nurses, cooks — rushed on to the road. Under a shower of shells and bullets, they cleared the way for military vehicles to cross over.

Tran Hun Thon, head and cell secretary of the ferry service, was killed at the very beginning of the raid. He was replaced by mechanic Mai Xuan Diem who commanded the operations while steering his motor boat. Aircraft dived and dived on the river but could not hit the craft which zigzagged skillfully. Vu Nhu Que helped Diem while keeping an eye on enemy planes. The other sailors on the ferry shot at them with their rifles when they flew low.

A-A batteries on both banks rumbled.

American planes came wave after wave. But the craft steered by Mai Xuan Diem kept going to and fro, among geysers of water and clouds of smoke, safely carrying the military vehicles across the river.

When the work was over, some sailors landed to help A-A gunners. With Diem and Que, the other braved death again to push off the boat and went on with the ferrying. Though wounded, Diem did not leave his command post on the craft, till it had finished and been taken to safety.

With a buoy, Que swam back to the opposite bank to remove petrol from a depot.

Some men of the People's Security Forces with their sidecar wanted to cross the stream. Uncle Nhay volunteered to carry them on his boat turned into a raft with wooden boards. Watching the raiding planes and firmly grasping his oar, he calmly rowed the improvised ferry boat across, varying at each moment the rhythm of his strokes.

After a whole day's fighting, the men of Ferry "April 3" 600 days have passed by. On almost every one of them U.S. planes came. But the traffic has not been interrupted. Old and young workers have valiantly stuck to their ferry, making up a community as strong as a fortress.

Taking the place of Mai Xuan Diem, mechanic Pham Viet Chi is day and night in the steering room of his motor boat. He steers the craft and trains a score of pilots.

One winter day, the steering wheel was broken and thrown into the river during an air raid. Carrying out the decision of the Party cell, Chi and another comrade dived into the icy water and after many hours, retrieve it and put it back in order. Traffic resumed early in the evening.

With his skill and his patience, Chi has managed to repair himself the damaged parts of the engine, all repair workshops being too far. One day, while repairing a machine he was half buried in mud by a bomb. He struggled out and went on, with his work though his whole body was aching.

Everybody here has been behaving like a soldier at his post.

Cat has overcome every difficulty to make the crossing always smooth. With him, never has the ferry run aground or missed the landing-place, even in pitch darkness. He knows how to take his bearings without a lamp, only with the moon, the stars, the trees... as guide marks.

The old workers though reaching retirement age do not think of leaving their ferry.

Scores of teen-aged workers coming from their schools and their villages have followed here the brilliant example of Mai Xuan Diem. One day, as the boat was touching the bank, it was attacked by U.S. planes. Unruffled and clenching his teeth, young Ut drew it on to the shore by strongly pulling on the mooring cable.

The Party cell of Ferry "April 3" has lost two members, but won fourteen new ones.

"April 3" now boasts many roads and many landing places, and even bridges. Under nearly 100 years' French rule, the colonialists had not been able to lay one bridge across the swift Y. River. However, in the fierce struggle against the U.S. aggressors, the ferry workers and road menders of "April 3" have built many bridges able to stand heavy lorries.

Imbued with a high revolutionary spirit, the men of Ferry "April 3" are determined to "maintain the traffic open by repairing at once what the enemy damaged".

THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES' GREAT UNITY IN FACE OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

(Nhan Dan editorial of March 1, 1967)

THE Indochinese Peoples' Conference, convened two years ago in Phnom Penh on the initiative of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, was a milestone in the political life and the struggle for independence and freedom of the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples. Said Prince Sihanouk: "In face of the grave threat to peace in this region, Cambodia proposes that all parties and patriotic organisations of the D.R.V., South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia hold a conference in which the three peoples will raise their voices to demand peace, which has been sabotaged by the U.S. imperialists through their scrapping of the Geneva Agreements."

At the Conference, which was held from March 1 to 9, 1965, the voices of the three peoples strongly demanded independence and peace. The Conference, which was attended by representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the People's Socialist Community of Cambodia, the Neo Lao Haksat and the Lao patriotic neutralist forces, adopted important resolutions. It expressed firm support to the struggle waged by the three countries for independence, self-determination and territorial integrity. It severely condemned U.S. imperialism, which has sabotaged the Geneva accords, is waging a criminal war of aggression against the Vietnamese people, intervening militarily in Laos, launching provocative attacks and nurturing aggressive designs on Cambodia. It stressed the "necessity to reinforce the genuine and firm unity of the three peoples of Indochina" in the struggle against their common enemy, U.S. imperialism.

The Conference achieved great success. This success of the militant unity of the peoples of Indochina marked an important milestone in their struggle against foreign aggression and at the same time the bitter failure of American imperialist machinations aimed at dividing them and swallowing them up one after another.

IN the course of the last two years, the situation in Indochina has greatly worsened because of the intensification of the American policy of aggression.

In early 1965, there were 30,000 American military advisers in South Vietnam. Since then, an American expeditionary corps of 410,000 men equipped with the most modern weapons and 60,000 mercenaries of U.S. satellite countries have been introduced there. The most barbarous means have been brought into play by the American government with a view to conducting a dirty colonial war. The war of destruction against the DRV has been intensified with every passing day.

The Americans and their Saigon and Bangkok agents have repeatedly sent troops into Khmer territory where they have perpetrated massacres of the civilian population. Khmer traitors on their payroll have been engaging in sabotage and murder and endangering the country's security.

U.S. aircraft continue to bomb the liberated zone in Laos. At U.S. instigation troops of the rightist faction have been attacking the Neo Lao Haksat and Lao patriotic neutralist forces.

Through acts of aggression and open provocation, the United States is trying to seize the countries of Indochina, enslave their people and turn the whole region into a U.S. colony and military base.

But it has encountered vigorous resistance from the peoples of Indochina. Fearing neither difficulties nor sacrifices, the Vietnamese people have shown great determination in defending their sacred national rights and have dealt stunning blows to the aggressors. In the last two years, about a hundred thousand U.S. aggressors have fallen on the battlefields of South Vietnam and over 1,700 U.S. aircraft have been downed over North Vietnam.

The Khmer people and their army, far from letting themselves be intimidated by the U.S. and its agents, have given them tit for tat. The movement of anti-U.S. struggle has grown in Cambodia.

The Lao people and the Lao patriotic forces have hit back vigorously at the U.S. and its valets, and have defended and consolidated the liberated zone.

The whole of Indochina is seething with revolutionary ardour and full of resolve to defeat the U.S. aggressors. American imperialism is running into a solid wall: over 40 million people of Indochina resolved to defend their independence and freedom. The heroic struggle waged by the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples is weakening the prestige and power of the chieftain of world imperialism. It is the spearhead of the struggle waged by the world peoples against imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, for national independence, peace, democracy and social progress.

IN the course of their struggle, the peoples of Indochina, closely bound to each other by geographical and historical factors and by their national interests, have become ever more conscious of the power they have gained through unity, and mutual help and support. This support, which they had given each other during their resistance against the French colonialists, accounted for their victory. Their unity is even closer and their mutual support firmer in their present struggle against U.S. imperialism, the enemy number one of the peoples. The successes they have achieved, especially during the last two years, are proof that their militant unity is the guarantee of their final victory.

UNITY among the three peoples of Indochina has grown ever stronger since the holding of the Conference, and this gladdens our hearts.

Like friendship between Vietnam, the Neo Lao Haksat and the Lao patriotic neutralist forces, that between the D.R.V., the N.F.L. and the Kingdom of Cambodia has grown ever closer. Our people wholeheartedly approve of the struggle waged by the brother Khmer people under the leadership of their Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, against the Americans and their agents, for independence, neutrality and peace. We sincerely thank the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Khmer people for their warm support to our struggle against the U.S. aggressors. Recently the Cambodian Head of State has reaffirmed his support to our just struggle and to the correct stand taken by the D.R.V. government in the Vietnam problem. He also stressed the determination of his government and people in frustrating U.S. aggressive designs on Cambodia. Said he: "The Americans have no reason whatsoever to remain in Vietnam. Vietnam is not Johnson's property. Foreigners have no right to intervene in Vietnam. The United States should withdraw from Vietnam and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs. If there should be negotiations, they should be held within the framework of U.S. troops' withdrawal and should in no way concern the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam. Cambodia will never resign itself to negotiating about the independence and territorial integrity. So will the Vietnamese people".

This firm and anti-imperialist declaration is a precious support and encouragement for the Vietnamese people.

American aggression confronts the peoples of Indochina with hard trials. To unite in fighting, to be resolved to defend their independence and freedom, as have done the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, is the only just and glorious way. It will lead them to victory and is opening up fine prospects before them.

On the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the Conference of Indochinese Peoples, we express to the brother Khmer and Lao peoples our militant solidarity and extend to them our warmest greetings.

News from LAOS

IN JAN. 1967: 200 U.S.-PUPPET TROOPS WIPED OUT, 4 U.S. PLANES DOWNED

IN January 1967 the armymen and people of Xieng Khoang and Luang Prabang valiantly repelled more than 50 attacks big and small of the Yankees and their lackeys against the liberated areas, knocked out 212 enemy troops, downed 4 American planes, and seized over one ton of weapons, munitions and military equipment.

The armymen and people of Luang Prabang fought 28 engagements, killed 87 enemy troops including 5 senators and field officers, wounded 57 others, talked into surrender and captured 8 aggressors, seized 75 guns of various calibres among which 5 81-mm mortars, 110 mines and several tons of armament and military ware.

The armymen and people of Xieng Khoang fought 28 engagements, put out of action 60 enemy soldiers, brought down 4 U.S. planes, collected a recoilless gun and 12 rifles.

EDUCATIONAL WORK STEPPED UP IN THE LIBERATED AREAS

OVER the past year, despite the Yankee imperialists and their flunkeys' attempts to nibble at the liberated areas and fierce strikes at villages and schools, the people there have contributed tens of thousands of work-days to evacuate the schools to safety.

During the summer 1966 vacation, a great number of teachers learned to improve their standard or worked with the people in the countryside. Together with the Sam Neua authorities the Central Education Committee set up model schools at Muong Pua and Muong Nga to draw experience in improving education.

Moreover, the education service has prepared nine more series of text-books. As a result, all schools at all levels in the liberated areas now use Lao as teaching medium and progressive textbooks, of a national character.

News from CAMBODIA

HEAD OF STATE SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK CONDEMNS U.S. CRIMES AGAINST CAMBODIA

THE Tunisian weekly *Jeune Afrique* (Young Africa) recently carried an article by Cambodian Head of State Samdeck Norodom Sihanouk vehemently denouncing and condemning the crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists against Cambodia.

He made known that since 1959, the U.S. Defense Department and the C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency) had sought every possible means to eliminate him and his family, encouraged activities to foment national division, organized rebellions, attempted to assassinate his parents, ordered the murderers to assassinate him, and were now backing the traitorous "Khmer Serei" (Free Khmer) clique. Samdeck Norodom Sihanouk also strongly condemned the U.S. for helping the reactionary administration in Thailand and the Saigon puppet clique to carry out aggressive activities against Cambodia.

(Continued page 7)

News from THAILAND

THE THAI PATRIOTIC FORCES' SUCCESSES IN 1966

ACCORDING to *Thailand People's Voice* in 1966 the Thai patriotic armed forces in 19 northeast and southern provinces rose up to arms and valiantly beat off all raids by the reactionary authorities' troops backed by American soldiers. They fought more than 150 counter-raids, putting out of action over 520 enemy troops. Within one week ending January 29, 1967, they mounted 12 attacks against the police thrown by the Thanom-Praphas clique into raids.

THAI YOUTHS REFUSE TO DIE FOR THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

ON the occasion of its founding anniversary on February 15, the Thai patriotic youth organization issued a statement calling on the Thai youths not to go to South Vietnam to serve as cannon-fodder for the Yankee imperialists. The statement read:

"At present the U.S. imperialists take in hand the control of Thailand in every domain. The reactionary Thanom-Praphas administration, a tool of the American imperialists, has engulfed Thailand into the South Vietnam catastrophe, by sending Thai youths to a shameful death in order to achieve the Yankee imperialists' aim of using Asians to

(Continued page 7)

SINCE the Honolulu Conference in February last year the American imperialists and their henchmen have been laying ever-stronger emphasis on "political stability" and "stabilization of the rear" in South Vietnam, which they regard as their "third front", the two others being aimed at "seeking and destroying the Vietcong" and "pacifying" the country. On this new front, stabilization of the puppet army and administration along with suppression of the urban people's struggle, constitutes their main political objective. At the same time "pacification" work intended to cordon off urban centres and American bases has to be carried out with most energy to prevent the Liberation Armed Forces' strikes at their rear. What did those efforts backed by the most cruel measures, achieve in 1966?

A DECAYING ADMINISTRATION

FOLLOWING a series of coups d'état staged by "old generals" to topple one another, and "young generals" to oust the latter, and after the overthrow of the "civilian" Phan Huy Quat cabinet, the young trio Thieu-Ky-Thi wrested power. Instability in the U.S.-stable kept spiralling simultaneously with its growing setbacks in both the military and political fields. The ruling trio was short-lived as Thieu and Ky entered into collusion to remove Thi from the Saigon traitorous political scene. Mutual purges, among the "young generals" — Washington's last prop in the puppet army—heralded the latter's inevitable collapse. They led to the defection of the First Army Corps and the administration in the northern provinces of South Vietnam, as well as to an armed dispute dragging on for several weeks. Thieu—Ky dispatched troops and fighter planes to Da Nang and Hue: hundreds of officers and men were killed and wounded, five generals — Thi, Dinh, Cao, Chuan and Nhuan — and a dozen field officers, dismissed. The ensuing political crisis affected the morale of the troops in other provinces while the authority of the Saigon regime seriously undermined. The cleavage in question also reflected the plight of a decaying administration, as much as the latter's failure of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

With the sacking of Thi, a new trio emerged: Thieu-Ky-Co. But of late, Co, and in his wake, quite a number of generals and field officers were fired or shifted to unimportant posts. And each of the remaining two of the trio wants to monopolize power in his own hands. Wrote Max Clos in the French paper *Le Figaro* (Feb. 16): *"Nobody in South Vietnam is unaware of the fact that general Thieu, Chief of State, and general Ky, Prime Minister, are in open opposition. The power struggle between them is gaining in intensity with the coming of the general elections.*

On the other hand, the conflict opposing the military and the civilian factions became sharper with every passing week in 1966. The "civilians", relegated to inferior positions since the overthrow of Quat, had the chance to resume their manoeuvres after the successive "government reshuffles", in "civilian-military councils" and the "elections to the National Assembly". Their "legal" status gave them the "right" to speak. Seven "civilian" ministers sent in their resignation at a time when Washington and Saigon attempted to show a "stabilized" administration at the Manila Conference in October last year. This and the "uprisings" in the "Constituent Assembly" engineered by the Americans and Thieu-Ky, just as other moves designed to oust the military dictators in power from the forthcoming government, were the "civilians" counter-blows struck at the Thieu-Ky ruling clique. The strife caused bloodshed in Saigon streets; attempts upon the lives of two "civilian" opposition leaders were made: Tran Van Van was shot dead and Phan Quang Dan, injured. The chasm separating the two factions is widening while the quishing administration continues decaying. Confronted with such a situation, the American bosses feel utterly puzzled over the pattern after which they have to set up a new administrative machine likely to bring "stability" into being.

ENDLESS STORMS IN URBAN CENTRES

BY pouring massive forces into South Vietnam, occupying many towns and cities, and implementing extremely reactionary policies in the areas under their control, the U.S. aggressors have generated in this American neo-colonialist society most intricate, utter contradictions, the basic one being between the whole Vietnamese people on the one hand, and themselves and their stooges on the other. That is the main motive force behind the struggles put up by the urban people last year, struggles ostensibly spearheaded against the American occupants and the traitorous Thieu—Ky clique.

Unremittingly on the offensive, those struggles bore a marked anti-American character, and so powerfully and evenly developed and spread to almost thirty cities and provincial capitals. They involved every stratum of the population, even a number of government officials and officers and men of the puppet army. A front for united actions against the U.S. and Thieu—Ky had practically taken shape in, among others, the widespread political movement of March 1966, the struggle of various sections of the population in Saigon and other towns against social evils resulting from American occupation, that of thousands of workers of the R.M.K-B.R.J. oil company, the general strike of Saigon dockers and recently of 2,500 workers in a logistic base near Saigon. All these movements were fierce and unfolded under multifarious forms: meetings, demonstrations, market-strikes, students' and school-children's stay-in strikes, hunger-strikes, fights against reactionary press-ganging, struggles against corrupt culture, self-immolations by burning, armed resistance against U.S.-puppet forces, occupation of radio-stations for nearly a month, burnings of U.S. information services and U.S.-owned cars, ransacking of the U.S. Embassy, protest against U.S. presence in Saigon, etc...

Although the occupants and their valets resorted to armed force, including tanks, aeroplanes and toxic gases, to repress them, the tidal waves of the South Vietnamese urban people's struggle never ceased developing, driving the puppet army and administration into an unending crisis and aggravating their instability.

Foreign observers in Saigon have lately admitted that "anti-Americanism" is spreading all over the towns and cities of South Vietnam (*AP*, Feb. 18, 1967). They have particularly underlined the people's reaction against "American neo-colonialism" (*Reuter*, Jan. 21, 1967) which they said does not at all differ from former French colonialism. This psychological climate spells out the bitter political failure of the United States," of all its schemes allegedly to "safeguard freedom" in South-East Asia, of all the plans for "revolutionary development" and "social revolution" that Washington has been propagandizing since the Honolulu and Manila Conferences.

GUNFIRE INSIDE THE *CORDON SANITAIRE*

STARTING from the struggle against the U.S. occupants and the Thieu-Ky junta, the urban people have come to arm themselves for self-defence, to break the enemy's grip and control many districts and working people's living quarters of various towns and cities of South Vietnam. Also from political struggle as a basis the Liberation Armed Forces have obtained facilities conditions to deliver telling blows at the adversary's rear bases and even at his neyralgic points. The fact that their guns hit the centre of Saigon itself when puppet troops were parading on "National Day", damaged airfields and U.S. ammunition dumps at Tan Son Nhat, Da Nang, Long Binh, etc., shows that there is no sanctuary for the Americans and the puppets in South Vietnam.

SOUTH VIETNAM

TURMOIL IN THE ENEMY'S REAR

FOREIGN PRESS OPINION

THE SAIGON REGIME

AS SEEN BY MAX CLOS

(...) IT is true that the Vietnam balance-sheet (of the U.S.A.) is not a brilliant one. In 1963, under Ngo Dinh Diem, there was a regime which was unpopular but which had the merit to exist. At present, there is only the appearance of a state.

The administration is corrupt and inefficient. At all levels of authority, serious misdeeds are committed. (Puppet) General Nguyen Huu Co, Vice-Premier and Defence Minister, has just been dismissed for embezzlement. But in fact, nine out of ten functionaries should be removed from office. Province or district chiefs, who have obtained their posts through bribery, seek first of all to recoup themselves, and to realize some profit before losing their offices. Credits from American aid, destined for the population, fill mostly the pockets of those whose job is to distribute them.

For three years now, a dozen generals, each younger and less experienced than his predecessor, have succeeded each other in power. Each strives to build up for himself a coterie. Northerners are against Southerners, airmen against armymen, civilians against militarymen. It is an open secret that General Thieu, Chief of State, and General Ky, head of the government, are mortal enemies. Their rivalry is still exacerbated by the approach of presidential elections, which will take place this year. The former is a Southerner, the latter a Northerner. Thieu recently exiled to far-away posts a number of Northerner colonels. Ky's reply was to promote a series of Northerner airmen. In December, the leader of the Southerners' opposition in General Ky, deputy Tran Van Van, was assassinated in Saigon. The police swore that is was a Vietcong criminal attack. But Van's widow explicitly accused Ky of being behind her husband's murder, refused the posthumous decoration awarded by the government, and forbade General Ky to attend the funeral.

(...) As for the Vietnamese (puppet) army, it is collapsing. By late 1966, desertion figures reached 500 per month per regiment. (...) Units are skeletal: battalions are the size of companies; companies, that of platoons. Noncoms are scornful of their chiefs. As happens in all armies in difficulty, they give vent to the same rancour: "There are those who find a safe berth at H.Q. and are colonels at 35, and those who fight and are promoted majors only with great difficulty".

(...) No wonder that this army is not keen on fighting.

(...) South of Can-Tho... Captain Brewer told me: "The Vietnamese (puppet) have every thing: artillery, equipment, U.S. air and artillery support. What they lack is the desire to use them".

(...) Those severe judgments, that latent scorn, irritate the Vietnamese (puppets). In all circles, civilian or military, one can hear complaints and recriminations: "they" don't respect our independence, "they" believe themselves to be in conquered country. Vietnam has become the 52nd American state, etc.

(...) For the Americans are really bent on behaving like masters. They are those who get killed, who pay, and feed this country. In return, they arrogate to themselves the right to command.

(...) In a nutshell: "At the beginning, it was a Vietnamese war with American help. Then, an American war with Vietnamese (puppets) help. Now, the Vietnamese (puppets) had better keep cut of it!"

(...) The practical result is that the Americans are recolonising Vietnam.

This has begun long ago in the army. First, the creation of a joint staff has been opposed. Plans are drawn by the Americans. The Vietnamese (puppets) execute them. It is General Westmoreland who decides which unit should get how much matériel. American advisers, from battalion level, have gone down to company level too. At division level, the American colonel prepares two plans: a "red" one, to cope with Vietcong actions, and a "yellow" one, to cope with mutinies, putsches and other activities by government troops. Some units, the marines for instance, refuse to let Vietnamese (puppet) troops participate in their operations. A Vietnamese (puppet) general never dares take the least decision without his adviser's agreement.

(...) A new stage has been reached with the decision to withdraw the Vietnamese (puppet) army from military operations and confine it to pacification tasks. Since January, the war against the Vietcong is the exclusive job of the G.I.s. Protected by this shield, the Vietnamese (puppets) are to ensure the security of villages in cleared regions.

The insult has been acutely felt by the officers. They say: "It's a return to the French system: we are not even policemen, but merely auxiliary troops".

And yet, this severe measure is indispensable, for two reasons: the immediate reason is that the (puppet) army should be withdrawn from the war lest it should completely disintegrate; the other, more remote, reason, is the Americans' hope to gain a few more years, during which they will forge a new tool which they hope might be more effective.

In the administration and for the same reasons, the Americans gradually take the place of the Vietnamese and engage in direct administration. Soon, one will find a situation similar to that under Bao Dai in 1950. There will be a Head of State, a government, a parliament, a whole façade which is but so much window-dressing, a activities by government troops.

(Continued page 7)

BEN SUC
Never Dies

Ben Suc, a small town 30 kilometres northwest of Saigon, was razed to the ground, thousands of its people shot or herded into concentration camps as a result of Operation Cedar Falls *undertaken by the U.S. aggressors on January 8, 1967. The Americans want to erase it from the map, turn it into a "ghost town", but Ben Suc never dies. We publish below a story released by* Liberation Press Agency *about Ben Suc in the days following its liberation.* — Ed.

IMMEDIATELY after the enemy withdrew from Ben Suc more than 200 cadres and people of this town and nearby Thanh Tuyen buckled to repair houses and defence works so that all those forcibly evacuated by the U.S.-puppet clique might return to spend the Lunar New Year's Day at home.

At present Ben Suc has no two-storey house left along Road No 14 but its people keep on working and fighting despite the havoc wrought by the aggressors. They now boast solid shelters and new communication trenches. However, what they have galore is love and hatred: love between parents and children, brothers and sisters or friends, love of the people for the revolution, hatred when one sees one's native land devastated and one's beloved ones massacred by the American aggressors. All this was blended into a sacred feeling which brings the Ben Suc people closer to one another and urged them to return home to enjoy Lunar New Year's Day together.

During the five *Tet* days, everybody was busy in liberated Ben Suc despite the roar of enemy jets overhead. Here, the women and old folk who had been driven by the enemy into the Phu Loi concentration camp left behind rows of barbed wire, or the people who had fled before the aggressors, now came home to see their relatives and the staunch cadres and guerillas. There, the Front cadres and the guerillas went to and fro to talk with the people. How merry the people were when recalling the black days they had spent in Phu Loi camouflaged prison or the political struggles face to face with the enemy! How excited the cadres and guerillas sounded when evoking their achievements in foiling the Yankee aggressor's *Cedar Falls* Operation!

A mother who had prepared a sizable quantity of food for the cadres before the herding of the people into Phu Loi now dumped upon the guerillas all the preserves she had made in this prison. How moving it was!

On the New Year's Day the Ben Suc people gathered in a street to attend an artistic performance given by the Liberation Art Troupe which had come a long way for the purpose. Said a mother gratefully: "How can we leave this place when the Front takes so much care of us?" A guerilla with a rifle slung over his shoulder exclaimed in a voice quivering with emotion, when seeing a play entitled *My Native Land*: "Let us defend this town to our last breath and force the American aggressors to pay their blood debt to this town, as it was out in pursuit of the guerillas.

— Fourth battle, before dawn Feb. 15: the L.A.F. made a surprise attack on the Quang Thanh stronghold, virtually wiping out a Pak Jung Hi battalion whose casualties amounted to 420.

— Fifth battle, Feb. 17 and 18: the L.A.F. destroyed or inflicted heavy losses on 5 battalions of puppet regulars on either bank of Tra Khuc river. Enemy casualties were close to the 1,000 mark.

Fighting in Binh Son and Son Tinh proves that no

THE STORMING OF QUANG THANH...

(Continued from page 8)

and was well within the range of U.S. artillery and aeroplanes.

After Ong Rau, Quang Thanh became the target of the L.A.F. Enjoying wholehearted aid from the people in the liberated zone, as well as the tight co-ordination of the guerillas, they secretly gone through the enemy's defence-lines up to their positions before the appointed time.

At midnight sharp, on the battle signal salvoes from artillery pieces and mortars of various calibres of the Liberation forces were showered on the enemy who was fast asleep. Many of them were killed by the side of their weapons while others, were thrown into ditches, their bodies blown to pieces. Swiftly, the L.A.F broke in through the barbed wire obstacles and barricades.

As soon as the rain of shells came to an end, spearheading thrusts started from all directions and like an unfolding canny-bladed pen-knife, the main of them, which had penetrated deep into the centre of the defence perimeter, split into two to cut it to pieces in concerted action with other thrusts, preventing the opponent from regrouping to organize co-ordinated resistance. When U.S. fighter planes reached the scene and adverse artillery fired in support, a most bitter hand-to-hand fight had already been engaged, so that they could not but hit at random in an attempt to impair the morale of the attackers. Using bayonets, hand-grenades and submachine-guns, the L.A.F. annihilated one enemy group after another among those who offered resistance. As to those entrenched in the last-ditch fighting sector, they launched repeated counter-attacks but to no avail, and what the adversary usually urged as a "magic wand"—his air force—proved totally ineffective. Finally, the most obdurate pockets were wiped out by the assaulting L.A.F.

Thus, after an hour's fierce fight the Liberation forces overran the Quang Thanh position, annihilating the 420-strong Pak Jung Hi battalion, and capturing a lot of arms and ammunition.

A VERY SIGNIFICANT ENGAGEMENT

THE Quang Thanh victory shows that the L.A.F. have largely enhanced their annihilating capacity: they do not only excel in movement warfare and surprise-attacks, or knock down entire enemy battalions while on the march but are perfectly capable of annihilating Pak Jung Hi troops, described by the Americans as "battle toughened" ones, in their own defence works and seize a considerable amount of armament.

It also shows that the L.A.F.'s fighting capacity has attained a high degree of development. They always make adequate preparations and ensure absolute secrecy, thus benefiting from the surprise factor. In the course of the fighting they closely co-ordinate the actions of all the engaged services, bringing into full play the latter's combat capacity. Their artillery is accurate in preparation fire and effective in giving relief, overwhelming the adversary right from the beginning. Irresistible and intrepid in assaults, the L.A.F. develop close-range fighting to the fullest extent possible so as to prevent enemy units from running to one another's succour, and neutralize the effect of their air force. The Pak Jung Hi troops can boast so much of their boxing art are frightened by the bayonet work of the valiant Liberation armymen.

With the Quang Thanh victory the L.A.F. have hit the adversary on the raw, shaking their entire defence system north of Tra Khuc River, and forcing their positions to give mutual support, thus making it easier to wipe out more American and satellite troops. Compelled to cope with the L.A.F. after their defeat at Quang Thanh they lost five more puppet battalions in Operation *Soldarity* at Huong Nhuong, Tan Phuong and An My from February 17 to 19.

Quang Thanh is finally a victory of bitter hatred for Pak troops over brutal and barbarous force won by the local people and L.A.F. to avenge themselves. Such hatred has been turned into firm resolve and a material force capable of inflicting due punishment on the bloody-guilty enemy.

FOREIGN PRESS OPINION

(Continued from page 6)

stage scenery. Behind the scenes, all levers of command will be in the hands of American officials.

Four civilian representatives of Ambassador Lodge have been appointed, one for each military region. Their official job is to direct the pacification programme, in fact to take in hand the whole administration. A plan has been worked out for the appointment of political advisers for civilian authorities. The Vietnamese have seen clear. They have dubbed Mr. Cabot Lodge's representatives "Residents", as during the colonial period.

MASSIVE DISINTEGRATION OF SAIGON TROOPS

(Continued from page 3)

companies in 1965. In 1966 mutinies among puppet troops resulted in 800 men killed or wounded, among whom 100 U.S. officers, 60 South Korean officers, 22 puppet officers. Most of these revolts were carried out in co-operation with the people and the L.A.F. The rapid success of the Thu Dau Mot and Ben Hoa rebellions was due to the well-synchronized action of patriotic mutineers helped by the people and the L.A.F.

Revolts and "Oppose war" actions succeeding one another have been symptomatic of a stronger mortal change among patriotic puppet military men drawn nearer and nearer to the people, to the patriotic struggle against the U.S. aggressors. Such measures as wage-lift, promotion, rewards, imprisonment, capital punishment... recently taken by the U.S.—Saigon Command to curb the tendency, have proved ineffective. On the contrary, the frenzied intensification and extending of the aggressive war has speeded it up and caused bigger mutinies.

With arms in hand and hatred for the U.S. aggressors in their hearts, aware that to side with the people is the only road to survival and honour, enjoying the ready help of the people and the L.A.F., the patriotic puppet soldiers, will certainly rise up more and more powerfully; they will turn their guns against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, carry out brilliant exploits and join their compatriots, their people and the revolution.

BINH SON and SON TINH...

(Continued from page 8)

— Third battle, Feb. 2: in an ambush, the L.A.F. annihilated a Pak Jung Hi company, soon northeast of the same district town, as it was out in pursuit of the guerillas.

— Fourth battle, before dawn Feb. 15: the L.A.F. made a surprise attack on the Quang Thanh stronghold, virtually wiping out a Pak Jung Hi battalion whose casualties amounted to 420.

— Fifth battle, Feb. 17 and 18: the L.A.F. destroyed or inflicted heavy losses on 5 battalions of puppet regulars on either bank of Tra Khuc river. Enemy casualties were close to the 1,000 mark.

Fighting in Binh Son and Son Tinh proves that no enemy can use violence to subdue the South Vietnamese people and detain them in concentration camps.

Driven into the defensive, with a switch-over from "quick - fighting — quick-victory" and "search-and-destroy" strategy be the "long-term fighting" and "pacification coupled with search and destroy", the more barbarities the U.S. puppet and satellite troops carry out barbarities against the population, the heavier their defeats will be. The stunning blows administered to the Pak Jung Hi mercenaries in Binh Son and Son Tinh are a lesson for any mercenary forces who willingly serve as cannon-fodder for the U.S. aggressors in South Vietnam.

NEWS FROM CAMBODIA

(Continued from page 5)

CAMBODIAN PUBLIC OPINION DENOUNCES WEST GERMANY'S HAMPERING CAMBODIA'S INCREASED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH G.D.R.

OVER recent days, Cambodian papers and Phnom Penh Radio have strongly come out against the West German representative in Cambodia for attempting to bring pressure to bear upon her with a view to preventing her from strengthening her friendly relations with the German Democratic Republic.

In a menacing tone, the West German representative blatantly declared that Cambodia's raising clear relations with the G.D.R. from General Consulate level to Ambassadorial level would be an "unfriendly act" towards West Germany.

The Cambodian news bulletin on February 20 ran a commentary pointing out that Cambodia is not to the least intimidated by the threats of the West German representative. She will resolutely and immediately reject the assistance with conditions attached given by any foreign country. The Cambodian people place absove all their independence and sovereignty.

NEWS FROM THAILAND

(Continued from page 5)

hill Asians". Then the statement appealed to all Thai-youths to protest and denounce the above perfidious design of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys in Thailand and South Vietnam, "*Sharing the same plight as victims of American imperialist aggression, we must fight side by side against our common enemy,*" the statement urged.

★

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficienly in future.

The L.A.F.

— **Annihilated One Battalion of Puppet Regulars, Wiped Out Almost Completely Another Battalion of Special Forces and Badly Mauled Three Other Battalions North of Quang Ngai ;**

— **Annihilated Three Companies of Puppet Regulars and Heavily Decimated Two Battalions South of the Mekong Delta ;**

— **Wiped Out Almost Completely One Battalion of Puppet Troops on the Western High Plateaux ;**

— **Destroyed Two U.S. Artillery Companies Northwest of Tay Ninh.**

SINCE mid-February the Americans have been launching many counter-attacks mainly north of Quang Ngai, on the Western High Plateaux and northwest of Saigon, near the Cambodian border.

According to *L.P.A.*, on February 15, the L.A.F. attacked Quang Thanh position, 11km north-northwest of Quang Ngai town, killing and wounding 420 South Korean mercenaries, the bulk of the *Blue Dragon* Battalion. Then on February 17 and 18, they foiled a raid by two puppet combat teams along the Tra Khuc river, northwest of Quang Ngai town. By beating off this operation the L.A.F. wiped out almost completely Special Forces Battalion 37 and badly decimated three other battalions, taking a toll of nearly 1,000 enemy casualties and capturing a great quantity of guns, munitions and military equipment.

Following the destruction and mauling of four U.S. companies along the Sa Thay river on the Western High Plateaux on February 15, the L.A.F. won a great victory further south on February 22, wiping out almost completely one battalion of puppet troops 50km north of Ban Me Thuot.

Meanwhile, the L.A.F. continued to strike at the enemy northwest of Tay Ninh. In February 17 night, they knocked down two U.S. artillery companies, destroying 11 guns and damaging another (They had wiped out 1,000 G.I's in the first thirteen days of the month).

On February 20 and 22, guerillas and regional forces annihilated 157 enemy troops including 110 G.I.s and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries. Four days later, on February 26, two U.S. infantry companies and a U.S. artillery company were neatly wiped out north of Tay Ninh. On February 28, a company of U.S. Infantry Division 1 met with the same fate. Thus, from February 17 to 28, in Tay Ninh 11 companies and 3 platoons of American troops were put of action, 77 tanks and armoured cars and 24 guns destroyed or damaged, 16 aircraft downed and 4 others damaged in the North-West and a U.S. infantry company annihilated in the North-East.

A remarkable achievement by the L.A.F. in this period was the defeating of a raid by six puppet battalions and two armoured cars squadrons against the region bordering Soc Trang and Can Tho. Within two days (February 14 and 15) they put out of action two companies from Special Forces Battalion 42 and one company from Regiment 31, and decimated two other battalions of regulars.

Moreover in February 27 night the L.A.F. shelled Da Nang airfield. According to the U.S. military spokesman in Saigon, many planes belonging to the Air Force and the Marines were destroyed, and the officers' club and the N.C.O.s billets damaged. The official figures of U.S. casualties — though far below the truth, rose to 43. On top of this, the explosion of bullets stored at the airfield triggered many fires lasting for no less than one hour and a half.

SUCCESSFUL STRIKE AT 2,500 WORKERS AT LONG BINH

ACCORDING to Western agencies on February 22, 1967, 2,500 workers building an American logistical base at Long Binh went on a 2-day strike for higher pay and against bad working conditions. They did not call off their action despite armed repression by the U.S. Command in Saigon.

It is to be recalled that Long Binh, important U.S. logistical base, has been 4 times attacked by the L.A.F. (more than 1,000,000 shells and rockets, 3,500 powder barrels destroyed).

THE STORMING OF QUANG THANH STRONGHOLD

Feb. 15, 1967

ENEMY DEFENCE - LINES NORTH OF TRA KHUC RIVER

QUANG THANH, a small village of Son Tinh district, 11km north-northwest of the puppet-troop-occupied provincial capital of Quang Ngai, is embedded in a large region formerly under the grip of American marines stationed at the big base of Chu Lai over 20km in the East-Northeast.

In summer 1966, in face of the L.A.F's heavy blows on Road 9 situated in the northernmost part of South Vietnam — 250km northeast of Quang Ngai — the U.S. command had to concentrate their marines on this front. Three months later the Pak Jung Hi *Blue Dragon* Brigade was dispatched to guard Son Tinh and Binh Son districts linking Chu Lai and Quang Ngai, north of Tra Khuc River.

The enemy's defence system was based on the An Diem and Quang Thanh enclaves guarded by Pak troops, and a whole network of posts and garrisons of both Pak and puppet forces. Pak troops used most barbarous means, killing all, burning all, destroying all, to pacify the region. It happened that as the nazis had done in World War II, in a single raid, they massacred well over one hundred people.

Boiling with hatred the people, guerillas and Liberation regional troops delivered them repeated counter-blows, inflicting heavy casualties. Typical of all was the annihilation engagement at Quang Thanh on the 14th to the 15th of February.

POWERFUL SURPRISE-ATTACK

QUANG THANH is a dry plain with many hillocks and a rather bare terrain. The enemy occupying force consisted of a Pak battalion.

After the defeat on Ong Rau hillock (Dec. 9, 1966), the American command strengthened Pak troops with more weapons. Taking avail of a favourable terrain, the latter settled on Go Tranh hill-top—north of Quang Thanh, and set up strong defence works with ditches and communication-trenches. They disposed their fire-lines in several rows and outside their blockhouses, dug covered and underground trenches and built up a fortified area where they would eventually fight to a finish. All around the position they put barbed wire entanglements, and lay anti-tank and anti-infantry mines in between. To prevent the L.A.F.'s sudden attacks, small groups were detached to lie in ambush at every cross-road while patrols prowled day and night in the neighbouring villages. Furthermore, Quang Thanh benefited from the support of nearby garrisons on all sides

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BINH SON and SON TINH — TWO GLORIOUS DISTRICTS OF QUANG NGAI

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BINH Son and Son Tinh are two delta districts north of Quang Ngai provincial capital, bordering on Quang Nam province in the North, on Tra Khuc river in the South, the two upland districts of Tra Bong and Son Ha in the West, and the sea in the East. Binh Son lies along Highway 1, barely 25km southeast of the U.S. Chu Lai military base. For this reason, since the time of Ngo Dinh Diem, the enemy has paid much attention to "pacifying" these two districts.

Under Ngo Dinh Diem's fascist rule puppet Division 25 made constant "sweeps", but with the revolutionary tradition of the land of the March 1945 Bo To Uprising, the local inhabitants waged relentless struggle in all forms against the enemy's efforts to herd them into "strategic hamlets".

Its "special war" being frustrated, the U.S. threw off its mask and took a direct part in the fighting. On March 7, 1965 two battalions of Brigade 9, U.S. Marine Division 3, landed at Da Nang, and 2 months later, 6,000 U.S. marines of the same division were introduced into Chu Lai, Binh Son and Son Tinh, right on the Southern side of Chu Lai came within the "sweep" zone set up by the enemy to ensure security for this U.S. base.

As a rebuff, the L.A.F. of Quang Ngai scored brilliant victories at Ba Gia between May 29 and 31, 1965, completely wiping out 4 battalions of puppet regulars, and marking a period in which the puppet army proved no longer able to confront the L.A.F. From that time on, the principal opponents of the L.A.F. were the U.S. expeditionary troops who, driven into passivity, had exposed themselves as real aggressors. The first blow at this aggressive army came at the Van Tuong battle, in Binh Son district, on August 10, 1965, anniversary of the national uprising in which power was seized from the Japanese fascists and the reactionary French colonialists. In this battle, the L.A.F. foiled a "sweep" conducted by 8,000 U.S. marines with air and naval support, wiping out 919 of them, destroying or damaging 12 armoured personnel carriers, and shooting down 13 aircraft, thus heralding in an Ap Bac * for the American troops.

The Van Tuong victory was followed by a series of major annihilation battles which took place in Binh Son and Son Tinh districts such as the battles of Dong Giap and Hill 62 (March 4 and 5, 1965) Phuoc Loc (March 21), Go Soi (July 15, 1966) etc...

In the summer of 1966, heavily battered in South Vietnam's northernmost areas, the U.S. command had to dispatch Chu Lai - based U.S. marines to cope with the situation there, in Sept. 1966 the *Blue Dragon* Brigade of the Pak Jung Hi marine force was sent to Binh Son and Son Tinh to replace the Americans who were moved to the North.

Upon arriving there, Pak Jung Hi mercenaries began applying the "kill all, burn all, destroy all" tactics, perpetrating extremely barbarous crimes against the local people. The L.A.F. in the province decided to avenge the victimised people. In the three months ending Dec. 31, 1966 alone, the guerilla and regional armed forces killed or wounded over 1,650 enemy troops. Their actions included two battles resulting in the complete destruction of the enemy's company - size units (Binh Phuoc battle, Nov. 11, and Hill Ma To battle near Chop Non Mount, Nov. 19) and another with the annihilation of an enemy battalion (Ong Rau Hill, 7km southeast of Binh Son district town, Dec. 9).

Since the beginning of this year, five major battles of annihilation have taken place in these two districts :

— First battle, Jan. 10 : the L.A.F. completely destroyed 2 companies of Pak Jung Hi mercenaries and inflicted heavy losses on another near An Dien.

— Second battle, Jan. 23 : the L. A. F. wiped out a whole Pak Jung Hi company, 7km northeast of Son Tinh district town.

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* *Ap Bac battle (Jan. 2, 1963), a defeat for the puppet army, ushered in a new stage in the armed struggle of the South Vietnamese people.*